

**Abstract**

There is provided a method of isolating novel lactic acid utilizing bacteria from human faeces, as well as novel strains so obtained. The use of the novel lactic acid utilising bacteria in therapy, including prophylactic therapy, is described and is of particular relevance for lactic-acidosis, short bowel syndrome and inflammatory bowel disorders such as Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. A probiotic comprising the live lactic acid utilising bacteria is also described.